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STILL CAN'T SET DATE FOR REFRIGERATORS, WPB TELLS INDUSTRY

Although the nation's stockpile of mechanical refrigerators has dropped to 55,000 and will be exhausted by the end of the year if the present rate of withdrawals continues, the War Production Board cannot now determine when production can be resumed, Stanley B. Adams, director of the Consumers Durable Goods division, told members of the Industry Advisory Committee recently.

"However, WPB is fully aware of the need for mechanical refrigerators and will make every effort to effect resumption of civilian production as rapidly as is possible without interference with war production," said Mr. Adams. "As labor, materials, and facilities become available in sufficient quantity to permit individual manufacturers to resume production, they will be permitted to do so, whether other manufacturers in their industry are able to resume production at the same time or not."

Among the most difficult problems, aside from manpower, to be overcome before mechanical refrigerators can be produced are shortages of fractional horsepower motors, thermostatic controls, sheet steel, and tin.

Lifting of controls on aluminum won't help much, except in the production of ice trays. It would take a year to solve technical problems involved in making cabinets of aluminum, and surplus aircraft aluminum, because of its extreme hardness, would be particularly difficult, industry committee members say. Besides, the industry prefers steel, anyway, the committee indicated.

To keep the nation's 20,000,000 mechanical refrigerators operating, WPB plans to change Limitation Orders L-5-c and M-9-c to permit manufacturers to make copper-containing parts, not only against orders on hand, as now, but also to stock twice as many such parts in any one quarter as they sold in the second preceding quarter. Same rules will apply to other parts, said WPB.

CONGRESS MAY ACT TO SPEED UP RECONVERSION

Two recent pronouncements have indicated that the reconvening Congress may act to speed up the reconversion to civilian goods manufacture.

James F. Byrnes, Director of War Mobilization, said that he had received assurances from Democratic Congressional leaders that they would cooperate to obtain prompt consideration of legislation designed to complete the charting of an industrial demobilization and reconversion program.

Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg of Michigan, issuing a call to the Senate Republican Steering Committee, warned that possible economic consequences of an early German collapse were such that immediate consideration of reconversion legislation was advisable.

THEATER OWNERS ATTACK "FREON" DISTRIBUTION

Charges of discrimination in the distribution of "Freon-12" to civilians were made to the War Production Board recently when the newly formed Theater Owners Advisory Committee met with William Y. Elliott, WPB vice chairman for civilian requirements.

Theater owners explained that they didn't expect any "Freon" to be diverted from essential users, but that they did desire a "fairer distribution." OCR has promised to investigate.

12,782 ELECTRIC RANGES AUTHORIZED BY WPB

Production of 12,782 electric ranges by three manufacturers in the third quarter has been authorized by the War Production Board—the first granted under the 1944 program for 88,000 ranges, with the exception of some 22,000 produced under appeals.

Only 3,722 of the 12,782 ranges are to be earmarked for retail sale to civilians, however. Approximately 1,500 are needed to fill "special" orders placed by the armed services, and other government agencies, and 7,560 will be held for new privately financed Federal Housing Administration war housing projects.

Frigidaire, A. B. Stoves, Inc., of Battle Creek, Mich., and Malleable Iron Range Co. of Beaver Dam, Wis. were named as the manufacturers.

About 94% of the ranges will be three-burner, apartment house models, and the balance standard four-burner ranges. All will be equipped with thermostats.

Production of standard, four-burner models cannot be started until production lines have been established and materials and components received, said WPB officials, so they won't appear on the market until late in the year. Three-burner models have been produced by two of the manufacturers under appeals procedure, permitting immediate production under the authorization.

71 LIMITATION ORDERS MAY BE RELAXED AUG. 15

None of the orders limiting various types of refrigeration production are included in the list of 71 wartime restriction orders which WPB has drawn up for possible relaxation on Aug. 15, when regional WPB offices will be empowered to authorize civilian production on the basis of available supplies of manpower and materials.

However, the list includes some orders of interest to those in the appliance field, such as L-6 (domestic laundry equipment); L-18-b (vacuum cleaners); L-65 (electrical appliances of the "table appliance" variety); L-176 (electric fans); L-308 (domestic food dehydrators); L-175 (coal stokers, Class B); L-173 (domestic space heaters); and L-185 (water heaters).

There will be no automatic lifting or revision of these orders, but each manufacturer of any of the products involved will apply for permission to be exempted from the restrictions on manufacturers. It is said that in most cases the local WPB offices will be allowed to grant an appeal if they have determined that materials and labor are available above and beyond what are necessary for war production.

As it is understood now provisions limiting the "end use" of any item will remain in effect, as will also those covering deliveries, distribution, and inventories, it was stated. Relief from these restrictions will probably be obtainable, for a while at least, only through the regular appeals procedure.

MORE REPAIR PARTS FOR LAUNDRY EQUIPMENT PERMITTED

Repair parts production for domestic laundry equipment, vacuum cleaners, and sewing machines should be increased now following amendments to WPB limitation orders permitting increases in manufacturers' inventories. New rulings allow inventories to be maintained twice as high as the number of products sold in the second preceding quarter.

WPB orders changed were L-6 (domestic laundry equipment), L-98 (domestic sewing machines), and L-18-b (domestic vacuum cleaners). In revised L-6 domestic laundry equipment is defined as including washing machines, ironing machines, and warm air clothes driers operated by gas, electricity, or other means. Driers were not previously controlled by L-6.

MACHINE TOOL ORDERS FOR POSTWAR GOODS OKAYED BY WPB

Unrated purchase orders for 15 specific types of capital equipment including machine tools, manufacturing machinery, and similar equipment may now be placed by companies desiring to get ready for postwar civilian goods production, the War Production Board has announced.

Rules under which these orders may be placed are contained in Priorities Regulation No. 24. The new regulation constitutes the third of the four steps recently approved by WPB to provide a basis for eventual reconversion of industry and to permit such limited civilian goods production now as may be undertaken without interfering with the war effort.

Before an order may be placed for new machinery or equipment, it will be screened by WPB field offices to determine whether existing suitable equipment is available in idle or excess stocks, it was explained.

WPB's approval of the placement of an unrated purchase order for tools or machinery or similar equipment may be obtained by writing a letter to the WPB field office nearest the company desiring to place the order. This letter should be in triplicate and should indicate the type of equipment that the purchase order will cover, including make, size, and approximate price. If no suitable existing equipment is available from idle or excess stocks, the WPB field office will give its approval to placement of the purchase order on a form (GA-1977).

Machinery manufacturers who receive unrated purchase orders placed under the new regulation may obtain permission to fill such orders by filing a form (WPB-3898) with their nearest WPB field office. This application by the manufacturer is for permission to make a specified dollar amount of equipment during a specified period.

If a person wants to place a purchase order for any type of machine tools or equipment, whether or not covered by the order, that will eventually be used to produce a product that may not be manufactured at the present time under WPB restrictions, he may apply on form WPB 1319 for a preference rating with which to place his purchase if he cannot get assurance of delivery on an unrated order at the time he needs the new equipment.

KELLNER SUCCEEDS WISKE AT SERVEL SALES SERVICE

J. C. Kellner, Jr., formerly assistant manager of sales service at Servel, Inc., Evansville, Ind., has been appointed acting manager of the department succeeding Prescott B. Wiske who died of a heart attack June 5 in Denver.

Mr. Kellner joined the Servel organization in April, 1928. He is a graduate of Purdue university.

'ICE CUBE EJECTOR' AND 'REVOLVING SHELF' RUMORS POP UP AGAIN

The "ice cube ejector" and the "revolving shelves" features for postwar refrigerators are rumored once again, this time in an article on probable postwar electrical appliance changes and features which appeared in the Wall Street Journal. As usual, no names are given of the manufacturers who will make refrigerators with such features.

Said the Journal:

"By the simple movement of a lever, a given number of cubes, say two or three, will be freed from the ice compartment in a jiffy. This is one of many innovations which manufacturers are planning for tomorrow's refrigerators.

"These new refrigerators will even have revolving shelves so that everything will be within easy reach."

The article also stated that "at least one range maker is understood to be experimenting with an electronic control device, but details of this development are surrounded with secrecy."

OPA CHANGES RULES ON SALE OF DAMAGED STOVES

Completely revised OPA regulations now permit the transfer of damaged stoves certificate-free by insurers, carriers, adjusters, and salvagers to dealers, distributors, or manufacturers, provided the transaction is reported to the OPA district office within five days.

Before selling damaged stoves to a buyer who is not an insurer, carrier, adjuster, or salvager (this would include civilians) the owner must obtain approval from the local War Price and Rationing Board or from the OPA district office. Written permission will be granted by OPA if it is found that reasonable efforts have been made to repair and sell the stoves for certificates.

A dealer or distributor who has given up a certificate for a stove which is afterwards damaged may get a certificate from his rationing board if he sells or obtains permission to sell that stove without a certificate in accordance with the new regulations, contained in Amendment 10 to RO 9a.

NO CHANGE IN DRAFT POLICY DESPITE HEADLINES

Some newspaper headlines last week along the lines of "Men Over 26 Now Facing Draft" might have been misinterpreted by some to mean that certain new orders had been issued by Maj. Gen. Hershey's office.

Actually, the only official step on which the newspaper stories were based was a letter from Hershey instructing local boards to conform to existing national policy.

This policy permits deferment of men 26 through 29 only if they are "necessary men" in essential industry and men 30 and over if they are making a "substantial contribution" to the war.

Some State Selective Service Directors had simplified this policy by ordering a "holiday" for all men over 25, regardless of the type of activity they were engaged in. Hershey's letter declared that there has been enough time since the policy was announced in May to put it into full effect.

"Refrigeration repairmen" and "refrigeration engineers" have been classified by Selective Service as being engaged in essential activities. However, men in such work who are in the 26-to-29 age bracket should make as strong a case as possible to show that they are "necessary men" in their occupation, if their local board indicates they are being considered for a change in classification.

Letters from customers who may have highly essential installations being handled by the registrants have sometimes proved helpful in such cases.

HAILE SUCCEEDS GARDNER IN WPB POST

William M. Haile has been appointed director of the General Industrial Equipment Division of WPB, succeeding Fred W. Gardner, who resigned to accept an appointment with the State Department. The Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Section is a part of the General Industrial Equipment Division.

Mr. Haile had been with Linde Air Products Co., New York City, before joining WPB in August, 1942. For the last several months he has been chief of the Liquid, Gas Handling, and Welding Equipment Branch.

LANNING NAMED MERCHANDISING MANAGER FOR WESTINGHOUSE RANGES

Melvin E. Lanning has been appointed merchandise manager of the electric range department of the Westinghouse Electric Appliance Division, announces R. M. Beatty, range department manager.

Mr. Lanning has been with Westinghouse for 24 years, of which more than 20 have been spent in the promotion and sale of electrical appliances. In 1933 he was connected with the Westinghouse Electric Supply Co. in Salt Lake City, and in 1935 and 1936 he operated his own appliance dealership in California, and the next year he went with the Intermountain Appliance Co., Denver distributor. Since 1937 he has been in sales supervisory work in the Westinghouse St. Louis office.